

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: Chair Chas Vincent, on March 8, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 303 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Chas Vincent, Chair (R)
Sen. Jeffrey W. Welborn, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Duane Ankney (R)
Sen. Dick Barrett (D)
Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)
Sen. Pat Connell (R)
Sen. Jedediah Hinkle (R)
Sen. Mary McNally (D)
Sen. Mike Phillips (D)
Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)
Sen. Tom Richmond (R)

Members Excused:

Sen. Jennifer Fielder (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Pat Christian, Committee Secretary
Hope Stockwell, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 215, 3/6/2017; SB 235, 3/6/2017

HEARING ON SB 235

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:23 Sen. Tom Richmond (R), SD 28, opened the hearing on SB 235, Allow extension of coal lease on state lands.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:03:06 Steven Wade, Great Northern Properties, L.P.
 00:04:43 Bud Clinch, executive director, Montana Coal Council
 00:07:00 Dan Stusek, State Auditor Office
 00:08:16 Stephanie Hess, Office of the Secretary of State
 00:08:41 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce

Opponents' Testimony:

00:09:22 Brenda Lindlief-Hall, Tongue River Water Users Association
 00:15:28 Clint McRae, citizen

EXHIBIT(nas48a01)

00:19:20 Mark Fix, citizen
 00:21:39 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)
 00:24:47 Beth Kaeding, citizen
 00:27:43 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

Informational Testimony:

00:28:12 Monte Mason, Minerals Management Bureau chief, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)
 00:28:33 Todd O'Hair, Cloud Peak Energy (CPE)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:29:06 Sen. Phillips
 00:29:25 Mr. Mason, DNRC
 00:29:39 Sen. Phillips
 00:30:02 Mr. Mason
 00:30:12 Sen. Phillips
 00:30:43 Sen. Richmond
 00:31:29 Sen. Phillips
 00:32:03 Sen. Richmond
 00:32:50 Sen. Phillips
 00:32:59 Sen. Ankney
 00:33:21 Sen. Richmond
 00:34:19 Sen. Ankney
 00:34:48 Mr. O'Hair, CPE
 00:35:50 Sen. Barrett entered the meeting.

00:36:31 Sen. Pomnichowski
 00:37:13 Mr. Mason
 00:37:53 Sen. Pomnichowski
 00:38:37 Sen. Richmond
 00:39:56 Sen. Pomnichowski
 00:41:07 Mr. McRae, citizen
 00:42:31 Sen. McNally
 00:43:01 Mr. Mason
 00:43:24 Sen. McNally
 00:43:28 Mr. Mason
 00:43:40 Sen. McNally
 00:44:04 Mr. Mason
 00:44:08 Sen McNally
 00:44:18 Mr. Mason
 00:44:31 Sen. McNally
 00:45:11 Mr. Johnson, MEIC
 00:46:15 Sen. McNally
 00:46:55 Sen. Richmond
 00:47:39 Sen. McNally
 00:48:06 Sen. Richmond
 00:48:16 Chair Vincent
 00:48:32 Mr. Mason
 00:49:08 Chair Vincent
 00:49:16 Mr. Mason
 00:49:30 Chair Vincent
 00:49:57 Mr. Johnson
 00:50:52 Chair Vincent
 00:51:03 Mr. Johnson
 00:51:18 Chair Vincent
 00:51:30 Mr. Johnson
 00:51:42 Chair Vincent
 00:51:48 Mr. Johnson

Closing by Sponsor:

00:52:48 Sen. Richmond
 00:54:00 Sen. Richmond left the meeting.

HEARING ON SB 215

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:54:33 Sen. Bob Keenan (R), SD 5, opened the hearing on SB 215, Major facility siting act for water bottling plants.

[EXHIBIT\(nas48a02\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

01:09:49 Steve Moore, citizen

01:16:42 John Waller, citizen
 01:19:01 Sarah Johnson, citizen
 01:19:42 Tracey Pixley, citizen
 01:21:30 Steven Harvey, citizen
 01:23:58 Sheila Zohrer, citizen
 01:27:28 Vance Carolin, citizen
 01:29:08 Kathleen Johnson, citizen
 01:30:52 Amy Waller, citizen
 01:33:13 Cynthia Edstrom, citizen
 01:34:11 Claudia Narcisco, citizen
 01:38:03 Jean Rachubka, citizen
 01:39:21 Anne Hedges, Montana Environmental Information Center
 01:40:07 Elena Evans, Montana Association of Conservation Districts
 01:40:46 Amy Seaman, Montana Audubon

Opponents' Testimony:

01:42:06 David Brown, president, Source Giant Spring
 01:45:58 Brian Hoven, Great Falls Development Authority
 01:48:54 Darryl James, Montana Artisan Water
 02:06:04 Elaine Taylor, Montana Beverage Association

Informational Testimony:

02:07:27 Kristi Ponozzo, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

02:07:51 Sen. Hinkle
 02:08:35 Sen. Keenan
 02:09:36 Sen. Hinkle
 02:10:26 Sen. Keenan
 02:12:17 Sen. Hinkle
 02:12:33 Sen. Keenan
 02:12:57 Sen. Hinkle
 02:13:13 Sen. Keenan
 02:13:43 Sen. Phillips
 02:14:41 Ms. Ponozzo, DEQ
 02:15:55 Sen. Phillips
 02:16:04 Sen. Barrett
 02:17:58 Ms. Ponozzo
 02:19:04 Sen. Barrett
 02:19:45 Ms. Ponozzo
 02:20:46 Chair Vincent
 02:21:10 Ms. Ponozzo
 02:21:37 Chair Vincent
 02:22:00 Ms. Ponozzo

EXHIBIT(nas48a03)

02:23:04 Chair Vincent

02:24:20 Sen. Keenan
02:25:00 Chair Vincent

Closing by Sponsor:

02:25:56 Sen. Keenan

Committee Business:

02:27:04 Sen. Pomnichowski
02:27:14 Chair Vincent

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:28 PM

Pat Christian, Secretary

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Additional Document

Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([nas48aad.pdf](#))